

DRAFT
**Proposed Plan for Republican River Basin Compact
Compliance**

I. Pass legislation that will allow NRDs in basins subject to interstate decrees, compacts or agreements to levy an increased tax or establish a water use fee to raise money for ground water management activities. This money could be used to:

A. augment water supplies in the basin through:

- 1. the buyout of water from existing surface water or ground water users or**
- 2. the construction augmentation projects that import water or retine the use of water in the basin**

B. compensate those water users subjected to greater regulation than others in the NRD by virtue of the fact their surface water projects or wells are so situated that curtailment of water use will provide extra stream flow in a timely manner.

C. Manage vegetation to increase channel flow capacity or reduce nonbeneficial consumptive use of water with the result of increasing stream flow

D. Other water management activities that will enable the DNR and the NRD to achieve the goals of an Integrated Management Plan or Ground Water Management Plan

II. Determine Allocations for surface water users in the basin and for ground water users in each NRD

A. DNR will estimate expected allocation to Nebraska and determine how much of allocation can be used by Nebraska to remain within the five-year-running average compliance criterion and, if it is a water short year, the allocation that can be used to remain within the two-or three-year-running average compliance criterion.

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B. Allocate expected allocation to surface water and ground water based on percentage depletions for years 1998-2002

- 1. Surface Water = X%**
- 2. Determine remaining allocation to go to Ground Water = X%**
 - a) URNRD = 44% Ground Water Allocation**
 - b) MRNRD = 30% Ground Water Allocation**
 - c) LRNRD = 26% Ground Water Allocation**

III. Administration of Allocations

A. The surface water allocation or whatever water is available for diversion, whichever is less, will be distributed by the DNR

B. Each NRD agrees to restrict ground water pumping within NRD so that ground water depletions within the NRD do not exceed the allocation for the NRD

Note: Compact compliance will be achieved by restricting both surface water and ground water depletions to their respective allocations and any increased streamflow resulting from either ground water well regulation or increased precipitation will go toward a credit that can be used in the following year.

C. Any accretions resulting NRD augmentation plans can be used by the NRD to offset depletions within the NRD.

IV. Any funding received from the State to assist the NRDs efforts to comply with the interstate decree, compact or agreement will be distributed to the NRDs in proportion to the amount of money used by the NRDs for augmenting stream flows. The amount distributed to

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the NRDs shall not exceed the amount of money used by the NRDs to augment stream flows. Any remaining money will be used by the NRDs and the DNR to enhance the states ability to comply with the interstate decree, compact, or agreement as agreed upon by the NRDs in the basin and the DNR.

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